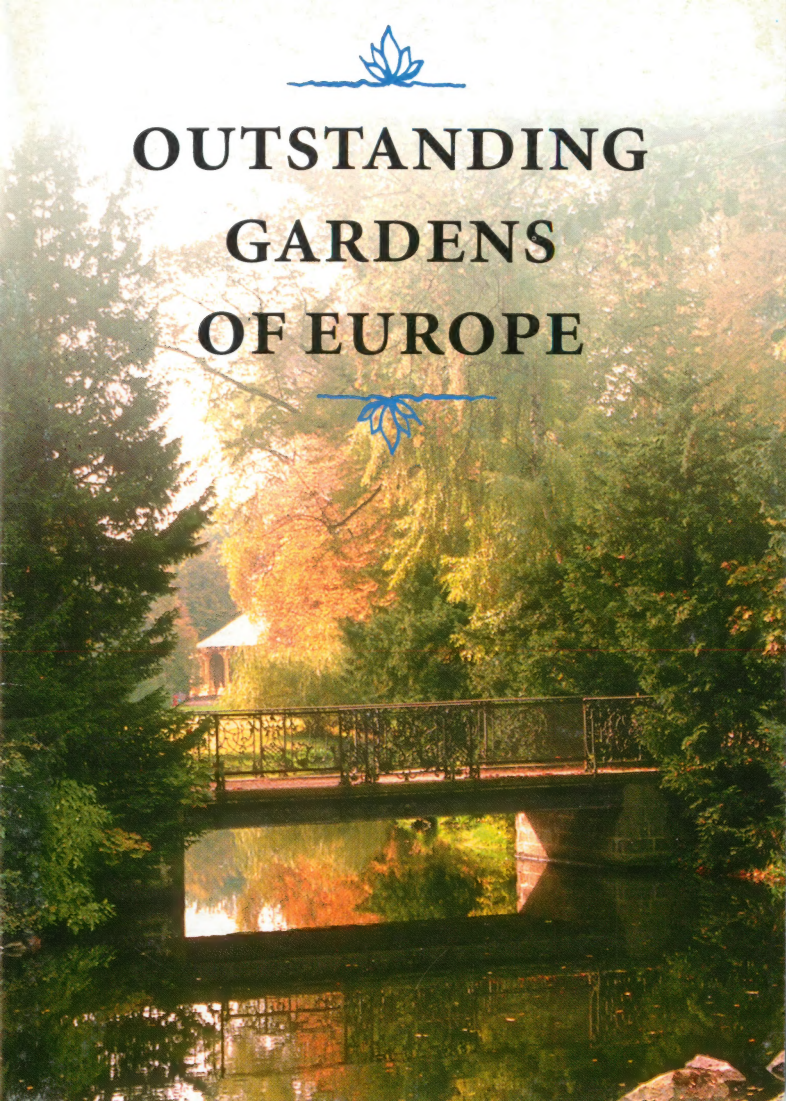




OUTSTANDING GARDENS OF EUROPE



Colofon

Edition

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Outstanding Gardens of Europe



Every country has tens, even hundreds of wonderful, large and small gardens. Many European gardens were created centuries ago by order of their kings or other rulers, to enable them to hunt, to escape from the strict protocol or from the heat of summer. Or... to outshine other kingdoms in pomp and circumstance.

Many people will visit such gardens during their holidays abroad. Some even plan their entire trip around the most beautiful gardens of a certain region to enable them to relax for a time and to gain new energy amidst the luxuriant wealth of flowers in the gardens of, in some cases, days long past. This booklet guides you through a small selection of the wonderful and famous gardens of Europe.

Outstanding Gardens and Their Owners

As early as Roman times to own a garden meant, to an extent, having a certain civilization and prosperity. Not using the available land for cultivation meant that the owner had enough to eat. The garden therefore, could be used more for pleasure, ornamental purposes, hunting, or to escape from the heat of the day.

Roman gardens abounded with heroic statues and fountains. In the middle ages the Christian monastery gardens had to serve useful purposes and consequently herbs were predominant and yet, flowers were grown here and there to enhance the herb garden. In the 16th century Henry VIII and Elizabeth I of England expressed the spirit of the times in their romantic gardens: a luxuriant wealth of flowers in fairylike avenues. Imitating the Sun King Louis XIV, the French brought the grandeur and the scale of the Kingdom into the 17th century gardens by means of





ornamental waters, vistas, winding paths, multi-coloured borders and pretty scenery with trees and farmhouses.

There are so many splendid gardens with beautiful mansions or castles to admire, that it is impossible to make a fair choice. The following selection of famous gardens of Europe are but a sample of the many other large and small, public and private gardens.

many statues, fountains, vistas and spectacular views.

In the 19th century, greenhouses were invented, so that exotic plants from the colonial overseas territories could also be grown at home. The landscaped garden with lots of large trees, small bridges and ornamental waters, which is still popular, originated at that time: as did the English nature garden with its diversity, differences in height,

England

The Gardens of Sissinghurst Castle



England is blessed with magnificent, lush gardens and parks as a consequence of the warm Gulf Stream combined with a humid climate, an outstanding country for garden-lovers! The world famous garden of Sissinghurst Castle in the County of Kent is a classical example of an English garden:

In summer, the gardens of Sissinghurst are frequented to such an extent that you can only enter the gardens at a certain time with a 'timed ticket'. This is a very effective system which enables you to view the gardens at leisure.

intimate with an endless diversity. The castle, in fact a large manor-house, was built in the 16th century by order of Henry VIII. In the 1930s, a noble couple, Sir Harold Nicholson and the writer Vita Sackville-West, set themselves the task of



restoring the strongly neglected country-seat. Sir Nicholson, being a diplomat, spent much of his time abroad and so the decisions about the lay-out of the garden were mainly taken by letter. Vita wanted to plant

rhododendrons, the suggestion of which was turned down by her husband by return of post!

The very special thing about the gardens of

Sissinghurst is the lay-out in groups in a 16th century style. However, the plantings are modern, with a very subtle subdivision in colours. For example, there is a spring garden, an early and a late summer garden and an autumn garden, all separated mainly by yew hedges. In the 'White Garden' there are only white-flowering plants. In the romantic rose garden there are wonderful, old-fashioned climbing roses. Sissinghurst is a feast for the eyes in every season.

TIP:

It is quieter in the morning!

*Address: Sissinghurst Castle Garden,
Sissinghurst near Cranbrook, Kent, TN17 2AB.*

Telephone number (+ 44) 15 80 71 53 30

*Opening times: April to September inclusive:
Tuesday to Friday inclusive 1 p.m. - 6.30 p.m.*

Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. - 5.30 p.m.

Closed on Mondays.

*Opening times are changed
during holidays!*

Entry: not free



The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew are situated 10 km from the centre of London. This

beautiful place can easily be reached by public transport. This most comprehensive collection of plants in the world comprises approximately 25,000 varieties. The Herbarium accommodates over 6 million dried plants. The gigantic

greenhouses of glass and iron, dating from the last century, are extremely impressive, as is the Palm

Greenhouse, dating from 1841, which has been beautifully renovated; as well as the water-lily and the fern greenhouses. The drawings of plants by Marianne North, who travelled the world in Victorian times, can be



The Palm Greenhouse in Kew Gardens, the largest Botanical Garden in the world.

admired in a separate gallery. Other wonderful buildings can also be visited, such as Kew Castle and the Dutch House, dating from 1631, with a magnificent 17th century garden. The whole year round there are lots of attractive plants such as snowdrops, cornus, Christmas rose, magnolias,



wisteria, rhododendrons, roses, hydrangeas and many, many more.



William Chambers was the designer of the pagodas and temples in Kew.

Throughout Kew Gardens you will find benches bought in memory of loved ones, sometimes enhanced by a memorial stone.

Address: Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew,
Richmond, Surrey, KW9 3AB.

Telephone number: (+ 44) 18 19 40 11 71

Opening times: the year round: Monday to Friday inclusive 9.30 a.m. - approximately 4 p.m., depending on sunset. Saturdays and Sundays 9.30 a.m. - approx. 7.30 p.m.

Entry: not free

France

The Gardens of Les Collettes

Les Collettes, a country-seat near Cagnes in southern France, was the haven and the source of inspiration of the impressionistic painter Pierre-Auguste Renoir. It was here in the beginning of this century that he found the tranquillity and the peace he so longed for in the last phase of his life. When he

bought the country-seat to save it from being demolished, he decided to leave the characteristic plainness and ruggedness of the environment unchanged as much as possible. The wild flowers which occur naturally in southern France, such as red poppies, blue borage and yellow spurge, were the ones Renoir loved most.

Around the house there are knotty, weather-beaten olive trees, terraced vineyards and orange trees.

Every season reveals another part of the unique gardens in bloom; for example, in spring the violet bearded irises, Dutch yellow irises and cherry blossom. Wandering through the gorgeous,

Ville de Cagnes-sur-Mer, France



Ville de Cagnes-sur-Mer, France





colourful gardens of Leo Collettes is like walking into the paintings of

Renoir. It is abundantly clear as to what was his source of inspiration.



Address: Musée Renoir, Chemin des Collettes, 06800 Cagnes-sur-Mer, France

Telephone: (+ 33) 49 32 06 107

Opening times: May to September inclusive: daily (except Tuesdays) 10.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Free entry on Sundays! November to April inclusive: changing opening times.

Call the telephone number above for more information.

Entry: not free, except on Sundays.



The Gardens of Versailles

The French baroque garden, which originated in the 17th

century, shows how nature has been completely bent to the will of the garden architect - garden, building and scenery form a whole. The gardens of Versailles are the best-known example of this design. The creation of the park was started during the reign of Louis XIII in the

middle of the 17th century, but it only reached perfection under Louis XIV, the Sun King. Garden architect to the court, Le Nôtre, created for his King, broad avenues, spectacular vistas, cheerful ornamental waters, romantic arbours, fountains, statues, multi-coloured flower borders, trees and beautifully clipped hedges. The aspect of depth and the breathtaking views symbolized the immense power and wealth of the ruler.





TIP:
**You can also hire a
horse!**



For the visitors to the present day gardens of Versailles, it is quite a walk in order to view all of the large park, which covers over 300 acres. On your way, you will be surprised and enchanted again and again!

*Address: Château de Versailles,
78000 Versailles, France.*

Telephone: (+ 33) 130 84 74 00

*Opening times gardens: the year round:
7 a.m. - sunset. The opening times of the
castle are different!*

Entry: not free.



The Gardens of Giverny

The bewitching world of colour and light in the impressionistic paintings of the world famous Claude Monet does, indeed, exist! In Giverny, west of Paris, the gardens and the house, where Monet lived for over 40 years of his life, can be visited. You can walk alongside the water-lily pond and over the romantic Japanese bridge, well-

In 1883 Claude Monet (1840-1926) and his large family settled into living in the spacious, pink house in Giverny. With love, he designed and cared for the surrounding gardens, his most important source of inspiration in the second half of his long, productive life. Monet considered his gardens to be his biggest masterpiece. Today they still catch the eye with daring colour combinations, motifs and the



striking nuances of light which change each season. He planted deep red tulips and deep blue forget-me-nots together, so that, like in a pointillistic painting, they merge into violet when seen from a distance. Every season has its own charm in the gardens of

known from Monets' paintings, or under the exquisite arbour of flowers where fragrant climbing roses are hanging in long arches above the 'tapestry' of creeping Nasturtium.

Monet: where the tulips have faded, the roses and peonies begin to give off their intense fragrance. In short: a garden not to be missed!



Maison de la France, Amsterdam, The Netherlands



*Address: La Fondation Claude Monet,
27620 Giverny, France.*

Telephone: (+ 33) 632 51 28 21

*Opening times: April to October inclusive:
Tuesday to Sunday inclusive*

10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Closed on Mondays.

Entry: not free.

TIP:

**Take the train from Paris-St. Lazare
to Vernon, where you can rent a
bicycle and ride the 3 km to the
Monet gardens in Giverny.**

A wonderful trip!



Italy

The Gardens of Isola Bella

In the second largest lake of Italy, the Lago Maggiore, lies a small, picturesque archipelago: the Borromean Islands. These islands,

Isola Madre, Isola Bella, Isola dei Pescatori and Isolino, have for centuries been owned by the noble Borromeo family. The beautiful islands can best be reached by boat or



water bus from the resort Stresa. In about 1650 the formerly bare rock island Isola Bella was transformed into a luxury pleasure-ground by a descendant of the Borromeo family. The gardens were complete in the year 1670, whereas the palace was only fully ready about 300 years later (!). Many distinguished people,

including Napoleon Bonaparte have visited the island, and a visit to the 17th century small castle with its richly furnished halls and valuable paintings, furniture and statues, is certainly very worth while.

The world famous, spectacular gardens of Isola Bella are like a stage, laid out in terraces. The lowest terrace hangs above the water and rests on pillars in the lake. The gardens are full of beautiful statues, luxuriant mediterranean plants, flowers and trees, amongst which are lots of rare, exotic ones. Isola Madre offers a similar, paradise like aspect, enhanced by white peacocks, in this magnificent botanical garden

**Your entry ticket
for Isola Bella also
gives access to
Isola Madre.
Certainly
recommended!**



*Address: Isola Bella, opposite Stresa,
Piedmont, Italy.*

Telephone number: (+39) 323 30 556

*Opening times: 27th Mar. to 24th Oct.: every
day 9 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. - 5.30 p.m.*

Entry: not free



Hungary

The Gardens of Margaretha Island

Without any doubt the most beautiful gardens of Budapest are situated on Margaretha Island in the middle of the Danube. For centuries the island has been an oasis of tranquillity: in the 13th century for the nuns, in the 16th century for the harem girls of the Sultan during the Turkish rule and today, for those who want to escape from busy Budapest. The island has been named after Margaretha, daughter of King Béla IV, who promised his daughter to God in the 13th century, in exchange for peace in his Kingdom. When the

enemy troops had suddenly disappeared, he entrusted his nine-year old daughter Margaretha to the strict Dominican nuns in the new convent on the island. Margaretha died, 28 years old, after a very devout life. She was canonized in 1944!

Today the 'Fairy Garden of Budapest' does not just offer rest and the shade of over 10,000 trees, but also beauty such as the famous Rose Garden with about 200 varieties of roses, the Japanese Garden with tropical water-plants, and the romantic ruins of



*Address: Margaretha
Island near Margaretha
Bridge over the Danube,
Budapest, Hungary.*

*Telephone number:
Tourist Office Budapest:
(+36) 1 132 05 97*

*Opening times: the year
round: 24 hours per day*

Entry: free



monasteries and churches. The impressive, gigantic complex of swimming pools (for 20,000 visitors!), the casino and the open-air theatre provide entertainment. There are also fantastic mineral springs which were famous as early as Roman times!

Cars are not permitted on Margaretha Island! Visitors have to discover this beautiful island on foot or by bicycle.



The Netherlands

The Gardens of Keukenhof



Keukenhof, Lisse



Eight weeks a year some 6 million flower bulbs provide a breathtaking blaze of colour in the Keukenhof Gardens of Lisse near Leiden. The footpaths in the park cover a total of 15 km and guide the visitor not only past the world famous flower beds,

but also through the covered pavilions, with changing exhibitions and Theme Gardens - the Wild Nature Garden and the Music Garden. The flower bulbs in Keukenhof have been planted in 3 layers, one upon another, to ensure

that there is always colour in the park: the late-flowering tulips underneath, next the early-flowering ones, and on top, the crocuses, which herald the bulb season. The Theme Gardens invite the visitors to gain advice and inspiration for carrying out new ideas, within their own garden.

Although the idea for Keukenhof as a show garden for flower bulbs originated in 1949, the park itself is much older. For example, the trees in the scenic beech avenue were planted about 1850, when garden architect Zocher designed a park in the English landscape style at this site. Keukenhof owes its name to an even



*Address: Keukenhof, Stationsweg 166,
2161 AM Lisse, The Netherlands.*

Telephone number: (+31) 252 465 555

Opening times:

late March until late May:

every day 8 a.m. - 7.30 p.m.

*Easy access for handicapped. Wheelchairs
available (reservation is necessary).*

Entry: not free

earlier period in its history. In about the year 1400 it was the country-seat of the Countess of Holland, Jacoba van Beieren, and hunts were organized in the park, and herbs gathered for the kitchen: Keukenhof means Kitchen Gardens.





The Gardens of Palace Het Loo

Palace Het Loo is literally situated in the (green) heart of The Netherlands, surrounded by the woods near Apeldoorn. The country-seat was bought in 1686 by Stadtholder Willem III because of the excellent hunting grounds. Until 1975 Het Loo was the favourite summer residence of the Dutch

formal garden with straight, symmetrical beds. There is a kings garden, a queens garden, a lower and an upper garden. The visitor will find, as well as the neat hedges, and the shaded lanes, an abundance of cascades, fountains and groups of statues from the Greek and Roman mythology.



Stadtholders and Royal family, Queen Wilhelmina particularly, considered Het Loo to be her home. At the end of the seventies the palace and gardens were restored to their original 17th century state and opened to the public. The Palace garden is a magnificent example of a

The gardens of Het Loo are unique in Europe, as not only is the design of the garden, authentic, but in spring and summer the parterres, terraces and vases, are filled with traditional 17th century style plants. A romantic wooded park with ponds is situated outside this stylish garden where it is pleasant to take long walks.



TIP:

**Guided tours and
concerts are given in
Het Loo, for which a
reservation should be
made.**

*Address: Paleis Het Loo, Koninklijk Park 1,
7315 JA Apeldoorn, The Netherlands.*

Telephone number: (+31) 55 77 24 00

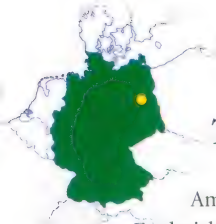
Opening times:

*the year round: Tuesday to Sunday
inclusive from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.*

Closed on Mondays.

During holidays opening times are changed.

Entry: not free



Germany

The Gardens of Sanssouci

Amateur architect Frederick the Great had a small summer palace built in Potsdam (Brandenburg) about 1744 to enable him to escape from the strict court etiquette together with his friends and to live without cares ('Sans souci') for a while. Frederick the Great, just like his father, was a great lover of gardening. He saw to it that Sanssouci, the only garden in Europe to do so, would produce enough grapes under glass to make his own table wine. The vines can still be found in the Palace garden, over 6 terraces, hewn out of a south-facing slope.

The lush wooded scenery which surrounds Sanssouci at present, was designed early in the nineteenth century. At that time Frederick William commissioned the architect Peter Joseph Lenné to modernize the conservative design of the park into the style of the English landscape. When visiting Sanssouci and the wine terraces; the luxuriant Palace garden, the many special buildings in the park, of which the Chinese tea-house, dating from 1754, is without doubt the most spectacular.



*Address: Sanssouci, Maulbärallee 4,
Berlin, Germany.*

Telephone number: (+49) 30 969 41 90

Opening times: the year round:

daily 8.30 a.m. - 5 p.m.,

anyway as long as it is daylight!

Entry gardens: free



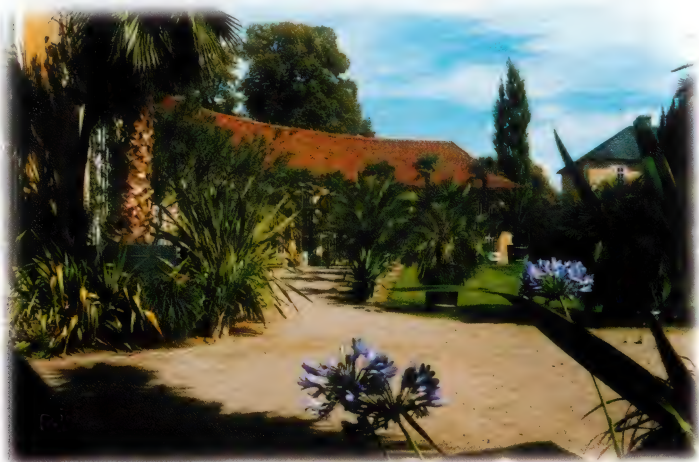


The gardens of Weimar-Belvédère

Except for the abundance of botanical varieties in the Orangery, the garden of Weimar-Belvédère is probably one of the most impressive, romantic parks. In 1775 Duke Carl August invited the writer/poet Wolfgang von Goethe to make Belvédère his home. Goethe had, as did the Duke, strong ideas on garden design and was very much in favour of botanical experiments. He was of the opinion

that every part of the garden had to evoke another mood for the visitors and he put his stamp on the design of this garden.

When a radical modernization was carried out in 1850, part of the original baroque garden was fortunately preserved. Since then an illustrious series of inhabitants have created unique surroundings including, amongst others, a splendid Russian garden, a flower



garden, rose hedges, fountains, ponds and a labyrinth. The atmosphere in the park is set by the centuries old oak and linden trees, contrasting with the Orangery, which offers a choice of tropical plants, amongst them, palms. The endless diversity of all sorts of plants and trees inside and outside the Orangery of Belvédère



Stiftung Weimarer Klassik, Sigrid Goske

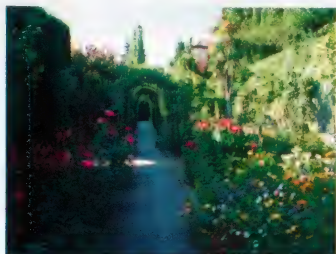
was why in 1820 a survey was published: the Hortus Belvedereanus.



*Address: Weimar Belvédère,
2 km south of Weimar on the
Belvederer Allee, Weimar, Germany.
Telephone number: (+49) 36 43 54 51 02
Opening times:
the year round: daily 24 hours a day.
Entry: free*

Spain

The Gardens of the Alhambra



emirs opposite the Alhambra, provide a relief, with their shady cypresses and willows, and the many flowers such as white and yellow jasmine, daffodils, red roses, water-lilies and herbs like thyme, mint and rosemary. On the patio stands a 500 year old cypress tree named “Cypress of the Sultana”.

It is hard to imagine that the Alhambra was built in the 13th century on the then still bare, red hills around Granada. By means of

spectacular gardens, such as the unique gardens of the Alhambra in Granada. These are the oldest and best conserved Moorish gardens of Europe, the Moorish rule from the 8th to the 15th century having set an important mark upon the south of Spain. The Moors, North-African Mohammedans, laid out gardens in the Alhambra in the style of Islamic ideal: lush greenery with lots of ornamental waters, fruit and palm trees. The gardens of the Generalife, the summer palace of the former





TIP: In the evening the gardens are beautifully illuminated.

In summer you can admire this from 10 p.m. until midnight, in the winter from 8 p.m. until 10 p.m.

an ingenious irrigation system, with water from the Darro river, the bare hills were transformed, as if by magic, into the luxuriant, green hills we see today. In summer especially, the shady gardens offer relief, like an oasis, from the almost unbearable heat of Granada.

Address: La Alhambra, Colina de la Alhambra, 18009, Granada, Spain.

Telephone: (+34) 58 22 09 12

Opening times:

April to September inclusive:

Monday to Saturday inclusive

9 a.m. - 8 p.m. Sundays: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

October to March inclusive: Monday to

Saturday inclusive 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Entry: not free

Denmark

The gardens around Rosenborg Castle

Danish Tourist Office, Leiden, The Netherlands, L. Lorentzen.



The carpet of crocuses in front of Rosenborg Castle in Copenhagen.

The beautiful Rosenborg Castle with the imposing Rose Garden in Renaissance style is situated in Copenhagen. The Rose Garden was created in 1606 and King Christian IV was so delighted with it that he had the existing country-house demolished and had Rosenborg

Castle built in its place in 1624. At that time it was situated just outside the walls of the medieval town. The gardens are a feast for the eyes with the rose garden, linden avenues, fountains and monuments, including a statue of Hans Christian Andersen, the famous Danish writer

of fairy-tales. In spring the avenue in front of the castle is transformed into a carpet of crocuses. In summer it is always busy, full of people playing games, relaxing in the sun or listening to musicians. For the children there is a

puppet-show every day in June, July and August. It is also well worth a visit to the castle. This is still used for official events and today is the Treasury of Denmark where,

amongst others, the crown jewels and the royal thrones are kept.



*Address: Rosenborg, Oester
Voldgade 4B, DK-1350,
Copenhagen, Denmark.*

*Telephone number:
(+45) 33 13 47 65*

*Opening times gardens:
April to September inclusive:*

every day

6 a.m. - 8 p.m.

October to March inclusive:

every day

6 a.m. - 5.30 p.m.

Entry gardens: free

Belgium

The Gardens of Annevoie



In the valley of the Meuse, between Namur and Dinant, you will find the 300-year old country-seat of the De Montpellier family, famous master-smiths. The gardens were designed and laid out by Charles-Alexis De Montpellier in the middle of the 18th century. The original gardens were laid out in the tradition of Le Nôtre. However, the romanticism of the 19th century and the natural look have, indeed, left their marks. For example, the different heights, springs and watercourses have been left undisturbed. Twenty ponds and approximately fifty jets of water, fountains and waterfalls make the gardens of Annevoie very special. All the water comes from four springs. For over 200 years the water has

continued unaided, to flow, spout and fall, without interruption - the natural difference in height doing all the work! The castle within the gardens, is partly open to the public, and a visit is certainly very worth while. You will also find in the gardens many cast-iron sculptures, cast in the forges of the family. The numerous flowers (approximately 40,000!), combined with the reflecting water, make Annevoie a refined and unique place.

*Address: Annevoie, Rue des Jardins
d'Annevoie 47, B-5537 Annevoie, Belgium.*

Telephone number: (+32) 82 61 15 55

*Opening times: 30th March to 2nd November:
every day 9.30 a.m. - 6.30 p.m.*

Entry: not free



The Czech Republic

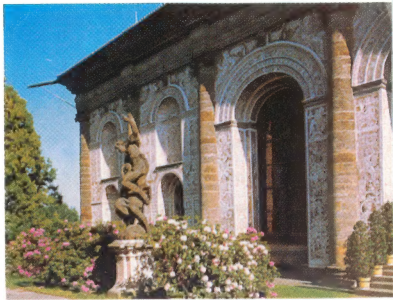


The Royal Gardens of Prague

According to legend, few gardens existed in the vicinity of present-day Prague. It was only after the 12th century that mention was made of monastery gardens and state parks, used mainly for hunting. The Habsburg Emperor Ferdinand I changed this in 1534, when he had magnificent gardens laid out in Renaissance style in the hills around his castle in Prague. Heir to the throne, Maximilian II beautified Prague's castle garden bringing to it specialities such as the first tulips in

Europe, from the Turkish Empire. It was only at a later time that the tulip became the trade mark of The Netherlands! It was Emperor Rudolph II who brought to Prague its reputation of having one of the most glamorous imperial households in Europe of that time, holding famous parties, in the castle gardens. The then leading Dutch garden architect Jan Vredeman de Vries was appointed by Rudolph to give his gardens even more cachet with added arbours and fountains.





Several examples of these can still be admired.

The former Renaissance garden has, after a face-lift in the baroque style, got an English look to it, designed by the Czech garden architect Joseph Plecnik. Wandering about these

wonderful gardens, you will come across the Paradise Garden, the bronze 'Singing Fountain' and the castle Belvédère. This beautiful palace is the purest example of Italian Renaissance architecture north of the Alps.



*Address: Royal Gardens near the
Castle of Prague, Hradčanské náměstí 1,
Prague 1-Hradčany, The Czech Republic.*

*Opening times: the year round:
daily 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.*

*In the winter months the gardens
close at 4 p.m.*

Entry: free

Bakker

Postbus 601

2180 AP Hillegom

Bakker

Stassen

Hortico